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Publication office: 36-38 East Adams
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Entered at the postoffice at Phoenix,
Arizona, as mail matter of the second
class.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
By mail, daily, one year..... \$9.00
Weekly, one year..... 2.00
Cash in advance.
BY CARRIER.

Daily, per month..... \$.75

Washington bureau, 500 Fourteenth
street, N. W.

PHOENIX, DECEMBER 13, 1899.

The trust problem is attracting more and more attention and it will be strange in view of the NOW FOR recommendations of THE President McKinley IF TRUSTS, the congress this winter shall not make an effort to curb the gigantic combinations of capital that are forcing up the prices of certain commodities and in general exerting a harmful influence on many American industries. The president's remarks are equivalent to a declaration that the entire nation is aroused and prepared to fight an evil which is strangling business competition and threatening our national integrity. The question has at last been presented to our national legislators, and they must either face the great problem created by selfish methods of powerful combinations, or retire to private life.

What are trusts? It would seem that the public ought to be pretty familiar with the ways and aims of these combinations by this time. But there are thousands of persons who have an idea that there is little or no danger in the combinations and that they are the natural outcome of evolution in business methods.

Trusts were scarcely heard of a decade ago. Their growth has indeed been surprising. Men who were formerly conservative in their business transactions have suddenly become eager to get rich quickly. They are like men carried away by the gambler's recklessness, and they unhesitatingly invest their capital in combinations which promise large dividends.

According to the cyclopedists trusts can be considered under four heads: (1) Their nature and how they are formed; (2) their economic effects; (3) their legality; (4) their probable future. Under the first head, a trust can be declared a combination of two or more competing organizations under one management, for the purpose of regulating the amount of production and increasing the profits of the combining concerns. A learned jurist has declared that "the purpose of a trust is to make larger profits by decreasing cost, limiting production, and increasing the price to the consumer." Its purposes are accomplished by presenting to competitors the alternative of either joining the combination or being crushed out of existence. The same jurist says: "The organization of the trust is intricate, secret and subtle. It is a masterpiece of modern ingenuity and fertility of resource. It is the product of the highest order of business talent and executive ability. It is at once a monument to American genius and a symbol of American rapacity."

That this jurist has spoken truly one can easily see, when he recalls the fact that billions of capital are already invested in trusts which are attempting to corner the necessities of life. Already thousands of men and women have been thrown out of employment by these combinations; and the prices for food products and some grades of merchandise are so high that buyers feel the pinch caused by unreasonable demands.

The economic effects of trusts are bad. These combinations stifle competition, create immense fortunes, make men unconscionable, and grind down the laboring class. They go still farther, and undermine the neutrality of legislation. Among the trusts which undoubtedly have great influence in state and national affairs are the Standard Oil trust, the paper trust, the anthracite coal corporation of Pennsylvania and the American cotton-oil trust. The anthracite coal trust owns 150,000 acres of anthracite coal land out of a total of 270,000 acres.

It is an old axiom that "Where combination is possible competition is impossible." Society, in the majority of instances, is vastly better off with many small fortunes among its members than with a few large ones. Trusts inevitably drive all small concerns to the wall, and build up a few large establishments on their ruins.

The future of the trust will be decided by the people. Already legislators are preparing to assail unlawful combinations. There should be no

compromise. Trusts have demonstrated that they are unscrupulous, and their cruel and oppressive methods should be stopped in an effective manner. By legislating against trusts, the people will eventually compel those persons who are investing immense sums in combinations to withdraw their capital and place it in legitimate channels.

The inauguration of Governor Taylor at Frankfort yesterday marked the ignominious failure of an attempted fraudulent. It began with the passage of the infamous Goebel bill by the last legislature. The aim and object of this rascally piece of legislation was to apply to white voters of Kentucky methods which have received statutory sanction in Mississippi and Louisiana for the purpose of disfranchising the black vote. This measure which proposed to place the entire election machinery of the state under partisan or factional control was promptly repudiated by the intelligence and honesty of the state, irrespective of party. There was immediate democratic revolt in every county and announced determination to defeat at the next election every instigator and supporter of the obnoxious bill. It was openly charged that Goebel and his faction brazenly proposed to bulwark themselves indefinitely in power through the operations of the measure to the exclusion of other wings of democracy.

This view of the situation put a sharp spur into the consciences of the Kentucky colonels and they at once announced that such a programme could not be carried out with their consent. There was a third candidate in the field but most of the revolting bourgeois cast their ballots for Colonel Taylor, the republican nominee, with the result that he was elected by a safe majority.

Then came the old familiar southern method of attempting to win by grand larceny what had been secured by the honest work of others at the polls. Counting out and throwing out and squeezing out on trivial technicalities was attempted all over the state. Unfortunately for its success, it was directed against the ballots of tens of thousands of lifelong democrats as well as against the votes of the republicans and it had to meet the aroused moral sense of an entire state. Courts and canvassers were compelled to bow before it and Governor Taylor takes his seat. The fraud failed as it ought to have done. It was misplaced as to its object. Had only negro republicans been involved there would have been no question about the outcome. The attempts, however, to disfranchise Kentucky colonels and bar them indefinitely out of the office holding pasture, overleaped itself and Goebel and his friends have been led to the rear seats in the political grand stand in the Blue Grass state.

The fire yesterday which destroyed General Sherman's block of shacks on Washington street demonstrated anew the need in Phoenix of an adequate water system. The water pressure was so light when the alarm sounded that the firemen had great difficulty in getting a stream on the flames. When, finally, the pressure was increased, there was nothing left of the buildings. But for the fact that the abutting buildings were of brick and the shacks were low and of the flimsiest construction a large district might have been devastated. Had there been a high wind such as prevailed Saturday night it would have been impossible, with the limited supply of water, to prevent a general conflagration.

While we deplore the losses incident to this fire we cannot avoid the thought that the fire was necessary to remove all doubt as to the necessity of the city owning a comprehensive water works plant at the earliest opportunity. The city is in great danger. If a fire were to get a good start in any one of the big buildings in the business district there wouldn't be one chance in a hundred of saving the property or of preventing the spreading of the flames. The water company couldn't pump water fast enough to cope with a big fire. The committee appointed recently to estimate the cost of a general water system is about ready to report and we are assured that the sum required will be clearly within the means of the taxpayers. Every taxpayer who desires to see Phoenix placed beyond the danger of a great fire should vote for municipal ownership.

The people of Winslow have no reason to feel hurt over the respite granted to the murderer who was to have been hanged there last Friday. The governor's action was intended to convey the idea to the world at large that the ghastly humor of the sheriff of Navajo county is no more acceptable in Arizona than it would be in an eastern state. People who have pride in the reputation of the territory will not question the governor's motives. If the residents of Winslow desire to see the murderer hanged on the day set in the official order they will advise Sheriff Watron to conform to the rules of decency in issuing his next set of invitations.

Operations in the Transvaal show the value of cavalry for scouting and the strong chances of disaster where it is not utilized for this purpose. The successive disasters to the British troops, so far as can be ascertained,

were due to imperfect knowledge of the whereabouts of the enemy. The English war office can take lessons from some pages of the civil war where cavalry reconnaissance preceded battles to which the petty encounters of the wars of 1898 and 1899 are mere skirmishes.

Californians who have been prematurely disturbed about the pending reciprocity treaty with Jamaica now learn that other proposed treaties will open markets worth tens of millions where the Jamaica treaty reduces slightly the tariff on less than a half a million's worth of West Indian fruits. It is never safe to yell until one is sure that he has really stubbed his toe.

According to Senator Teller silver and trusts will be the slogans of the next presidential campaign. According to Dick Croker silver will not be enough in evidence to worry the New York democracy. Mr. Croker is on the inside and it is a "dicer" to a Derby that he knows better than Teller how the deal has been made up.

Colonel Bryan has not been heard from for nearly three days. If this unusual silence continues a search expedition headed by Chairman Jones will be in order to determine his whereabouts.

It looks like the irony of fate that the destruction of General Sherman's Washington street shacks should illustrate the inadequacy of General Sherman's water system.

Billy Mason's friends intimate that he proposes to worry the administration. Senator Mason's patronage bag has not been plucked for a year past.

The municipal ownership idea received a fresh impetus yesterday.

FLOWER OF THE BRITISH ARMY.
The Queen's Own Guards Have Been Sent to Fight the Boers.

In the dead of night the flower of the British army just rode through the streets of London to embark for Africa. Dozens of regiments had gone before, but still more men are required to overwhelm the stubborn fighting Boers, so the war office has sent out England's pride—what is known as the Household cavalry.

These troops are only called out on what may be called emergency campaigns. Their foreign service includes Dottingen, the Spanish peninsula, Waterloo, Egypt in 1882—their last call abroad being for Tel-el-Kebir.

Every visitor to London has seen in busy Whitehall the two striking Life Guard sentries, clad in their glittering breastplates and helmets, sitting immovably on their coal-black horses in front of the old government building, now used as a barracks.

There they have stood for many years, representing the military power of England. It is these men, the queen's own guards, that started early this morning to fight the Boers. All could not go, so a special regiment of picked men from the First and Second Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards was made up, 700 strong, commanded by Colonel Need.

Dukes, earls, barons and even princes fought and pulled wires to be selected to go with the regiment. It contains more blue blood than any regiment that ever before left England. In the ranks there was the same contest among privates for selection, but only the lightest weighted, hardest and youngest were taken.

Long after midnight the troopers trotted out of their respective barracks, each of the three squadrons headed by mounted bands, whose music echoed through the deserted streets.

The men clad in khaki, were covered with the long blue winter coat which distinguishes the Household cavalryman. The black horses, eager as the men, reared and plunged as they dashed ahead for Waterloo station, where a train was taken for the steamer at Southampton.

In the business part of the town a few hundred people gathered to give a parting cheer to the dashing guardsmen.

TO BRUISE BRYAN.

General T. J. Churchill, democrat and sometime governor of Arkansas, looks at the democratic situation with a clear and therefore melancholy eye: "The outlook for democracy in the next presidential election is gloomy, to say the least. The recent elections have settled two things, free silver and expansion. We cannot win on either of these issues."

But the democratic party has no hope of winning. Its higher aspiration is that after another tumble Bryan may be too bruised to mount again.—New York Sun.

JOGGING HIM UP.

He (musingly)—Well, nann proposes, but—
She (meaningly)—No, he don't; he just keeps making one think he is going to.—Puck.

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